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Bureau of Land Management - Colorado



Jan. 15, 2010

BLM in the Spotlight

BLM Associate State Director Says Goodbye

*By Dave Hunsaker,
former BLM Colorado
Associate State
Director*

Hello all...you know, there comes a time when one looks around and decides that change is in the wind. In this case, the change in the wind is as good as I can remember. The Bureau is poised for the next era and we have leaders and employees who will take us there. I have enjoyed a career of nearly 40 years and the time has come to hang up the spurs and see what the next life chapter brings. It has been a great privilege to have worked for BLM for so long. The people make all the difference...and we get to work in places that people save their money to visit. Our resources, employees, and programs are the best. There hasn't been a day that I didn't love working for the people of the U.S. and the BLM. Our shared experiences make us who we are, and I will cherish them always. From volunteer programs, to rec planning, to wilderness inventory, to managing the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Red Rock Canyon, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the Washington, D.C. experience, and now the Colorado chapter...no one could have been more blessed. Thank you to all I have worked with for sharing part of your lives...I have learned from you all and will hold our friendships close. I think its important that folks go out while they are effective and still having fun...and at least I'm still having fun. So...take care and keep in touch. Best to you always and we'll see you along the trail...Dave Hunsaker

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Anna Marie Burden is serving as the acting BLM Colorado State Director, and Lynn Rust is serving as the acting BLM Colorado Associate State Director.

BLM Colorado's Botany Program Working to Preserve Sensitive Species

*By Peter Gordon
and Carol Dawson,
both botanists for
the BLM Colorado
State Office*

When hiking through Colorado's public lands most of us keep our gaze out on the open vistas or up on the canyon walls. For those of us who don't keep an eye on the ground, it is easy to miss some of Colorado's spectacular resources.

In fact, many of these resources can be found on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. BLM lands support a high diversity of plant habitats ranging from dry saltbrush flats, sagebrush steppe, pinyon-juniper and spruce-fir forests, to alpine tundra and riparian corridors. As a result of this diversity, many unique plants are found on our public lands, including a few protected by the Endangered Species Act. In Colorado alone, we have 13 protected plant species – eight of which are found on BLM lands.



These unique plants are essential to local ecosystems. The work of BLM Colorado's botany program helps ensure that these rare plants will be a long-lasting feature on public lands. BLM-funded programs foster partnerships with the Denver Botanic Gardens, Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, and Colorado State Parks' Natural Areas Program to collect important information on the natural history and status of Colorado's sensitive plant populations.

Next time you are visiting your public lands, take a moment to appreciate our native plants and their contribution to the surrounding ecosystem.

Employee Spotlight

BLM Cadastral Surveyor Moves through the Ranks

Rebecca Bruno recently passed national and state examinations to become a licensed Colorado Professional Surveyor. Bruno started working for the BLM as a Survey Aide in 2001. Since then, she was hired as a temporary student and worked her way through the BLM student career program. She graduated from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 2005, where she was honored as the Outstanding Surveying and Mapping Program Graduate. Bruno also has a bachelor's degree in International Relations. In addition to her work in Colorado, Bruno occasionally provides cadastral services in Utah and Nebraska. She is currently stationed in the Gunnison Field Office.

Ask BLM

How many Wilderness Areas does the BLM manage in Colorado? BLM Colorado manages five wilderness areas: Black Ridge Canyons is 75,500 (with 5,120 acres located in Utah), Gunnison Gorge is 17,784 acres, Powderhorn is 48,115 acres, Uncompahgre is 3,390 acres, and Dominguez Canyon is 66,280.

If you have something you want to learn about, "Ask BLM" at Colorado_News@blm.gov

In the News

[BLM Launches Public Process to Revise Resource Management Plan \(1/14/10\)](#)

MONTROSE – The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office is seeking public input as it begins revising its Resource Management Plans.

[Chihuahua Gulch: Alternate trail leaves Peru Creek crowds behind \(1/10/10\)](#)

One of the most popular, and often crowded, novice ski tours is the one that heads up Peru Creek, near the town of Montezuma.

[State's first geothermal lease focus of meeting \(1/09/10\)](#)

BUENA VISTA - The Bureau of Land Management and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources have scheduled a public information meeting from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Thursday at the Buena Vista Community Center, 715 E. Main St.

[Denver attorney named to Interior post \(1/08/10\)](#)

Constance Rogers, a partner with Denver law firm Davis Graham & Stubbs, has been named to a U.S. Interior Department post.

Press Releases since Jan. 1

- [Illegal Dumping a Local Problem, Too \(01/12/10\)](#)
- [Salazar Launches Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reforms \(1/06/10\)](#)
- [BLM to Hold Geothermal Community Information Meeting in Buena Vista \(1/06/10\)](#)
- [BLM Uncompahgre Launches Public Process to Revise Resource Management Plan \(1/05/10\)](#)



Photo by ©Jerry Sintz

Places to Visit

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness Area

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness, located 50 miles south of Grand Junction and 10 miles north of Montrose, encompasses diverse landscapes ranging from abrupt, erosion-sculpted hills of Mancos shale, known as adobe badlands, to rugged pinyon/juniper-covered slopes, to the spectacular double canyon of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. A variety of recreational activities are available in the NCA—from whitewater boating and rafting to big-game hunting to world-class, Gold Medal trout fishing in the wild river canyon. Off-highway vehicles are allowed, but only in the Peach Valley area, north of Falcon Road.

Activities

Back country hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, rafting, kayaking, fishing, wildlife viewing, big-game hunting, and off-highway driving.

Directions

From Grand Junction, take U.S. Highway 50 south approximately 50 miles, or from Montrose take U.S. Highway 50 north about 10 miles. The best access points are Falcon Road, or County Road 2200, which can be reached by turning east onto U.S. Highway 92 in Delta (21 miles north

Hot Topics

Annual fuel reduction meetings bring agencies together in Grand County

*By Lynn Barclay,
BLM Fire Mitigation/
Education Specialist*

The Bureau of Land management's Kremmling Field Office has been leading an effort to coordinate hazardous fuel projects across Grand County, Colorado, since 2004.

By organizing an annual hazardous fuel reduction meeting, the Field Office helps ensure effective communication occurs among all the parties involved, including Grand County Natural Resources Department, Grand County Board of Commissioners, the fire protection districts, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the BLM.

The group convenes not only to share information regarding agency-specific projects, but also to design future projects that provide seamless community protection. This is also an excellent forum to address and discuss biomass, smoke management, wildfire response, and other related issues.

Following each annual fuels meeting, a new county-wide map is developed showing the planned and proposed projects. Agency representatives then present the updated map to the Grand County Board of Commissioners at a public meeting and discuss the projects in detail.

The annual meetings began in 2004, when a natural resource advisor for the county commented that many residents were working hard to reduce the threat of a catastrophic wildfire by conducting mitigation work on private land. In response, the question raised by the public was, "What are the federal and state agencies doing on their side of the fence?" Thus, the Bureau of Land Management responded by hosting the first fuels meeting to gather information and see exactly where work was being done. As a result of that meeting, the BLM shifted the emphasis on some of its fuels projects to more directly address the wildland-urban interface. It was also the beginning of the first interagency presentation to the Grand County Board of Commissioners.

of Montrose). From Delta, follow U.S. Highway 92 approximately 7 miles to the intersection of County Road 2200, near Austin.

Permits, Fees, Limitations

Permits and fees are required for anyone 16 years and older entering the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Day use fees are \$3 per person. Wilderness camping permit fees are \$10.00 per person for one night, \$15 per person for two nights (maximum stay). Interagency passes are not valid for wilderness permit fees. Self-register fee stations are located at all wilderness trailheads.

Contact Information

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[Visit us online](#)

Fire protection districts and other county and state agencies provide new perspectives on prescribed fire and range and forest health-related projects. Being responsive to the needs of the communities being served by the BLM and other agencies is directly aligned with the intent and direction of the National Fire Plan.

For more information contact: Lynn Barclay, BLM Mitigation/Education/Prevention Specialist, 970-826-5096.



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